



# **Disaster Damage Assessment Public Assistance Program**

**Virginia Department of Emergency  
Management**

***Recovery & Mitigation Division***

# **Workshop Objectives**

- **Distinguish the three types of damage assessments**
- **Discuss Public Assistance (PA) damage assessment requirements**
- **Discuss methods of recording PA damage data**
- **Discuss reporting responsibilities**

# **3 Assessment Types**

- **Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)**
- **Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)**
- **Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) (A Local, State, and Federal team)**

# **Common Purposes**

- **To assess the level of damage to human safety and property so that local, state, and federal resources are deployed efficiently**
- **To assess need and eligibility for state response and recovery assistance**
- **To assess eligibility for federal response and recovery assistance**

# Rapid Needs Assessment

- Occurs in **Response Phase**
- Life safety and reduction of imminent hazards focus
- Occurs within 24 hours after the incident
- Local Governments report RNA results to Virginia Emergency Operations Center in Local Situation Reports



# Initial Damage Assessment or “IDA”

***Localities first estimate of emergency response costs and specific disaster damage evaluation of infrastructure:***

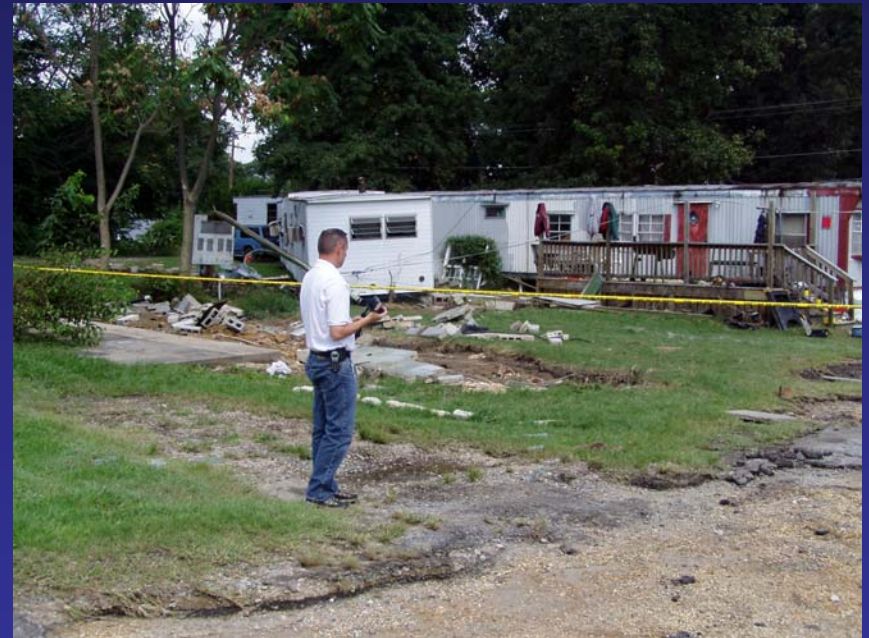
- Debris
- Roads & Bridges
- Public Utilities
- Public Buildings
- Water Control
- Recreation & Other Infrastructure

# Initial Damage Assessment (continued)

- Data justifies a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a joint local / state / federal preliminary damage assessment (PDA)
- Occurs in the **Recovery phase** of disaster activity
- Cumulative damages should be submitted to the VEOC within first 72 hours

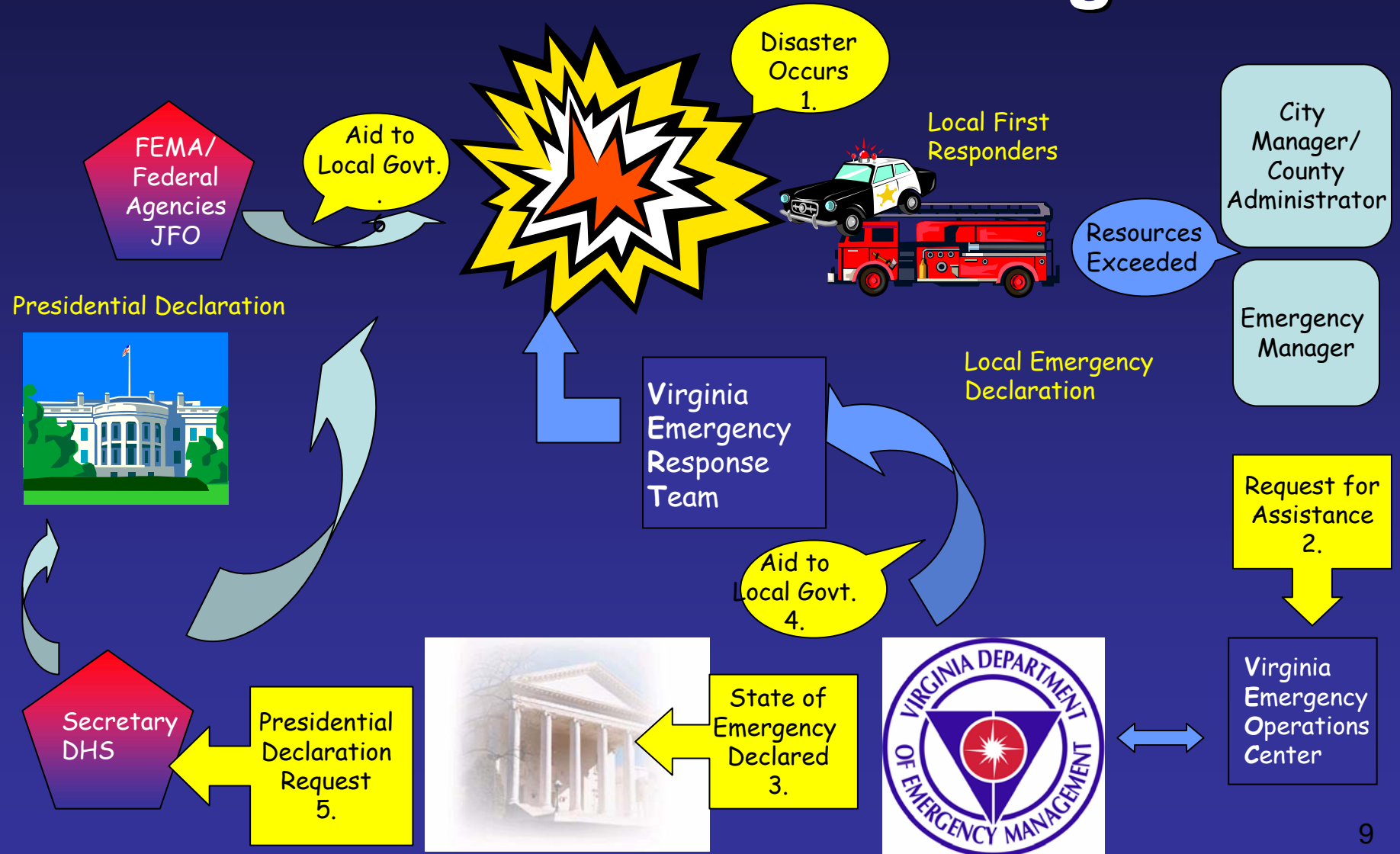
# Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)

- A joint “PDA” is a local, state, and federal team-based damage survey
- Verifies Governor’s Request for a declaration of Major Disaster





# Disaster Response in the Commonwealth of Virginia



Category	Purpose	Eligible Activities
A: Debris Removal	Clearance of trees and woody debris; building wreckage; sand, mud, silt, and gravel; vehicles; and other disaster-related material deposited on public and, in very limited cases, private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Debris removal from a street or highway to allow the safe passage of emergency vehicles</li> <li>•Debris removal from public property to eliminate health and safety hazards</li> </ul>
B: Emergency Protective Measures	Measures taken before, during, and after a disaster to save lives, protect public health and safety, and protect improved public and private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Emergency Operations Center activation</li> <li>•Warning devices (barricades, signs, and announcements)</li> <li>•Search and rescue</li> <li>•Security forces (police and guards)</li> <li>•Construction of temporary levees</li> <li>•Provision of shelters or emergency care</li> <li>•Sandbagging • Bracing/shoring damaged structures</li> <li>•Provision of food, water, ice and other essential needs</li> <li>•Emergency repairs • Emergency demolition</li> <li>•Removal of health and safety hazards</li> </ul>
C: Roads and Bridges	Repair of roads, bridges, and associated features, such as shoulders, ditches, culverts, lighting and signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Eligible work includes: repair to surfaces, bases, shoulders, ditches, culverts, low water crossings, and other features, such as guardrails.</li> </ul>
D: Water Control Facilities	Repair of irrigation systems, drainage channels, and pumping facilities. Repair of levees, dams, and flood control channels fall under Category D, but the eligibility of these facilities is restricted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Channel alignment • Recreation</li> <li>•Navigation • Land reclamation</li> <li>•Fish and wildlife habitat</li> <li>•Interior drainage • Irrigation</li> <li>•Erosion prevention • Flood control</li> </ul>
E: Buildings and Equipment	Repair or replacement of buildings, including their contents and systems; heavy equipment; and vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Buildings, including contents such as furnishings and interior systems such as electrical work</li> <li>•Replacement of pre-disaster quantities of consumable supplies and inventory. Replacement of library books and publications.</li> <li>•Removal of mud, silt, or other accumulated debris is eligible, along with any cleaning and painting necessary to restore the building.</li> <li>•All types of equipment, including vehicles, may be eligible for repair or replacement when damaged as a result of the declared event.</li> </ul>
F: Utilities	Repair of water treatment and delivery systems; power generation facilities and distribution lines; and sewage collection and treatment facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Restoration of damaged utilities.</li> <li>•Temporary as well as permanent repair costs can be reimbursed</li> </ul>
G: Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Items	Repair and restoration of parks, playgrounds, pools, cemeteries, and beaches. This category also is used for any work or facility that cannot be characterized adequately by Categories A-F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Roads, buildings, and utilities within those areas and other features, such as playground equipment, ball fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, boat docks and ramps, piers, and golf courses.</li> <li>•Grass and sod are eligible only when necessary to stabilize slopes and minimize sediment runoff.</li> <li>•Repairs to maintained public beaches may be eligible in limited circumstances</li> </ul>

# DISCUSSION

# Public Assistance Damage Assessment



# General Public Assistance Program Eligibility Rules:

- All damages must be attached to a *facility*
- Facility must have been in use immediately prior to the declared disaster
- Facility must be the legal responsibility of the applicant

# Be Careful, Be Prepared



# IDA TIPS

- *Assess potentially dangerous sites from a distance*
- *Travel in pairs if possible*
- *Maintain constant communication*
- *Take go-kit!*
- *Inspect critical areas first*

## *more... IDA TIPS:*

- *Report PA damage by FEMA category of work*
- *Seven work categories:*
  - ✓ *2 Emergency categories*
  - ✓ *5 Permanent work categories*



# IDA Tips: Estimating Water Depths



- Brick  
2 1/2 inches per course
- Concrete or cinder block  
8 inches per course
- Lap or aluminum siding  
4 inches or 8 inches per course
- Door knobs  
36 inches above floor
- Stair risers  
7 inches
- Standard doors  
6 feet 8 inches

# Emergency Work Categories

## **Category A: Debris Removal:**

- Identify Federal Highway Administration (FHA) roads first
- Work with VDOT and local road crews
- Keep public informed of curb and roadside removal schedule for private property debris
- Estimate debris by cubic yard and type (woody, white goods, construction & demolition)

# Category A: Debris Removal





# Category A: Debris Removal



# Mixed Woody, Construction & Demolition Debris





# Debris Management Tips:

- Pre-disaster local or regional debris management contracts
- Quantify FHA, local roads
- Photos with GPS and clear written locations for each photo



# Hazardous and Mixed Debris



# Salvage, Insurance, Legal Issues Surround Debris





# Debris Types



© Ken Weber



- Woody
- Construction & Demolition
- White Goods
- Electronic/Computer
- Vehicles
- Household Goods
- Tanks
- Environmental

# Debris Types



# Emergency Work Categories

## Category B: Emergency Protective Measures

Warning Devices (Barricades/Sign)

Search and Rescue

Security Forces

Construction of Temporary Levees

Shelters or Emergency Care

Sandbagging

Bracing/Shoring Damaged Structures

Food, Water, Other Essential Needs

Emergency Repairs

Emergency Demolition

Removal of Health/Safety Hazards



# Category B Documentation

- All personnel record regular & overtime hours, location, and type disaster work performed
- Save receipts, invoices & expense records
- Equipment, contractor and rental invoices





# Category B: Emergency Protective Measures



# Category B: Emergency Protective Measures



***Protective Fencing***



***Protective Boom -  
Contamination***



# Category B: Emergency Protective Measures



# Category B: Emergency Protective Measures





# Category B: Emergency Protective Measures



# **Permanent Work Categories**

**C Roads & Bridges**

**D Water control facilities**

**E Buildings, contents &  
equipment**

**F Public utilities**

**G Recreation and miscellaneous**

# Category C: Roads and Bridges

- Any road maintained by the applicant
  - Exceptions:
    - Cities, Henrico, Arlington Counties and others
- Bridges
- Drainage structures
- Signage
- Culverts
- Tunnels

***NO ROUTINE MAINTANENCE IS COVERED***

# Category C: Roads and Bridges





# Category C: Roads and Bridges



# Category C: Roads and Bridges





# Category C: Roads and Bridges



# Category C: Roads and Bridges





# Category D: Water Control Facilities

- Dams and Reservoirs
- Levees
- Floodwalls
- Weirs
- Lined and unlined engineered drainage channels
- Shore protective devices
- Irrigation (public)
- Pumping



# **Category D: Water Control Facilities**

- **Do not confuse with other waterways**
- **Some activities or structures are not always eligible**
- **No routine maintenance**
- **Locality must be legally responsible for maintenance (MOA, owner, etc.)**

# Category D: Water Control Facilities



*Cameron Run  
Flood Control Weir*



*City of Richmond  
Flood Wall*

# Category E: Buildings, Contents, Vehicles & Equipment

- **Damage**  
**Description and**  
**estimate**
- **Cause of damage**
  - **Wind**
  - **Flood**
  - **Surge**

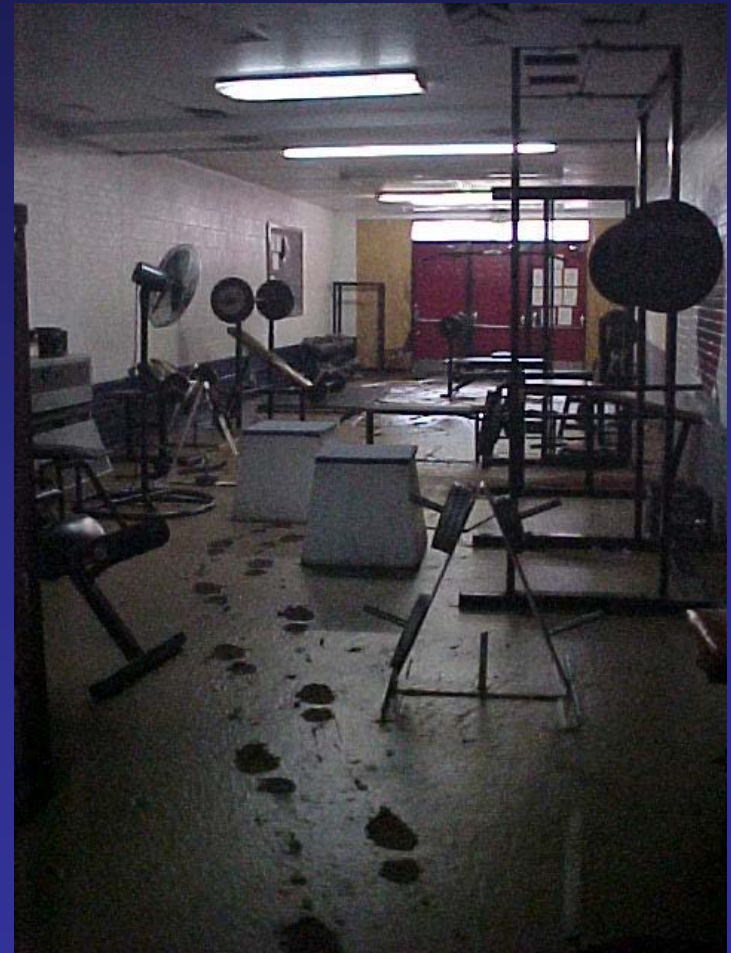




# Category E: Buildings, Contents, Vehicles & Equipment



# Category E: Buildings, Contents, Vehicles & Equipment



# Private Non-profit Questionable Damage





# Verifying Damage





# Category F: Utilities

- **Electric & Telephone Cooperatives (PNP Status)**
- **Municipal or Regional:**
  - Water Systems
  - Waste Treatment Plants
  - Natural Gas
  - Waste Management Authorities

# Category F: Utilities





# Category F: Utilities



# Category G: Recreation and Miscellaneous

- Facility is owned by or is the responsibility of the applicant
- Maintenance work is not eligible
- Other damages fall into Category G:
  - Playground equipment
  - Swimming pools
  - Tennis courts
  - Boat docks and piers
  - Municipal golf courses



# Category G: Recreation and Miscellaneous



# Category G: Recreation and Miscellaneous





# Category G: Recreation and Miscellaneous



# Local PA Damage Assessment Field Form

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FIELD FORM

JURISDICTION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Key for Damage Categories (Use appropriate letters in the 'category' blocks below)						
A. Debris Clearance	D. Water Control Facilities		G. Parks, Recreation Facilities & Other			
B. Emergency Protective Measures	E. Public Buildings & Equipment					
C. Roads & Bridges	F. Public Utility System					

SITE #	CATEGORY	STREET or AREA LOCATION				
		GPS (when available use decimal degrees)				
DAMAGE DESCRIPTION:						
EMERGENCY FOLLOW-UP NEEDED?	Y	N	TOTAL ESTIMATED DAMAGES: \$			
FLOOD INSURANCE	Y	N	PROPERTY INSURANCE	Y	N	NO DATA AVAILABLE (check box)

SITE #	CATEGORY	STREET or AREA LOCATION				
		GPS (when available use decimal degrees)				
DAMAGE DESCRIPTION:						
EMERGENCY FOLLOW-UP NEEDED?	Y	N	TOTAL ESTIMATED DAMAGES: \$			
FLOOD INSURANCE	Y	N	PROPERTY INSURANCE	Y	N	NO DATA AVAILABLE (check box)

SITE #	CATEGORY	STREET or AREA LOCATION				
		GPS (when available use decimal degrees)				
DAMAGE DESCRIPTION:						
EMERGENCY FOLLOW-UP NEEDED?	Y	N	TOTAL ESTIMATED DAMAGES: \$			
FLOOD INSURANCE	Y	N	PROPERTY INSURANCE	Y	N	NO DATA AVAILABLE (check box)



# ***Discussion and Break***

# **Managing the Public Assistance Damage Assessment Process**

# Key Concerns

- Being prepared for the IDA and PDA processes
- **Team composition**
- Estimating dollar damages
- **Other important data relating to IDA's**
- Process for submitting information to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

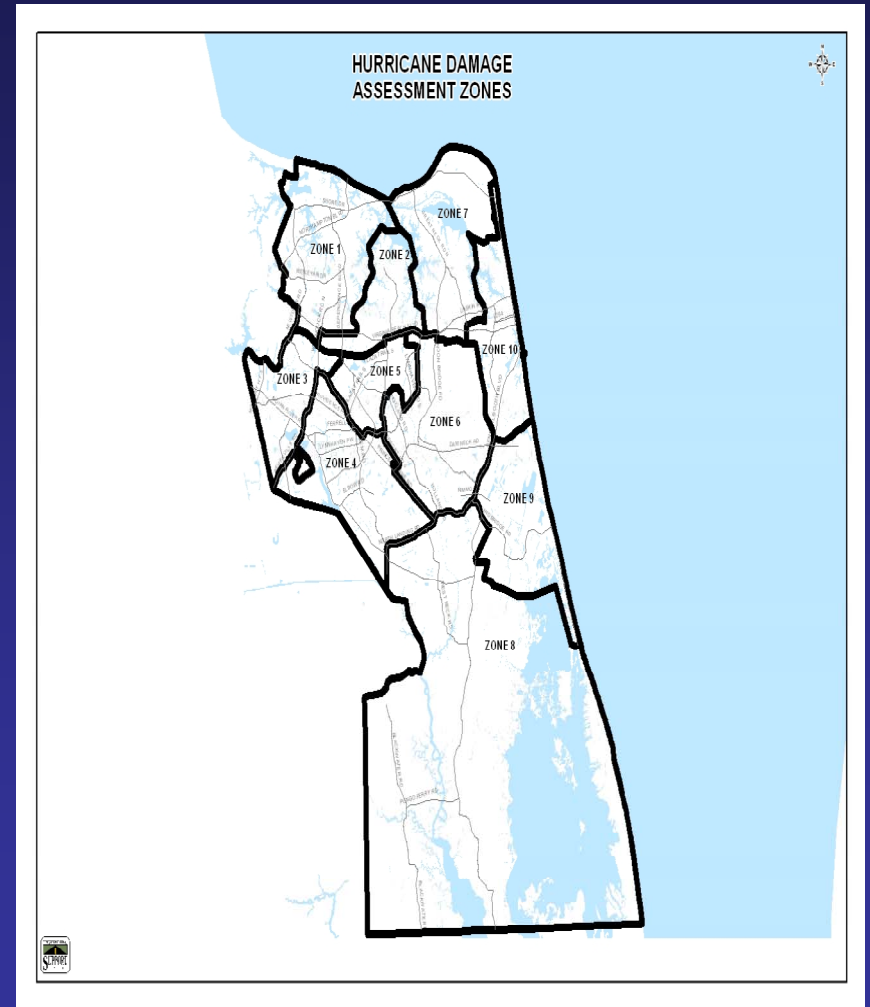
# Being Prepared

- Pre-identify geographically-based sectors
- **Familiar with existing characteristics of the damage areas**
- Conduct pre-deployment briefings
- **Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs)**
- Existing information: critical facilities; condition of buildings; etc.
- **List of private non-profit organizations**



# Team Composition

- Who is/is not on your teams now?
- **Applicable technical knowledge – building construction**
- Go kits: maps; digital camera; forms; etc.
- **Use of mutual aid agreements for damage assessment?**
- Pre-identified zones



# **Estimating PA Damages**

**Need narrative and dollar estimates for**

- Structural damage**
- Loss of contents**
- Emergency protective measures**

# Other Important Data Elements

- **Special considerations**
- Insurance status will need to be verified later
- **Accessibility?**
- **Functional facility?**

# Submitting information to the VEOC

- Cumulative IDA summary data through local emergency coordinator
- Use the on-line form in WebEOC
- Submit results of the form to Local Liaison Section of the VEOC (804) 674-2400 or fax (804) 674-2419 or E-mail to [veoc@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:veoc@vdem.virginia.gov).



# Local Government Cumulative Initial Damage Assessment Report

Local Government

## CUMULATIVE INITIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

VDEM VEOC Phone Number (804) 674-2400 Fax Number (804) 674-2419

[www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com)

Jurisdiction:									
Date/Time IDA Report Prepared:									
Prepared By:									
Call back number:									
Fax Number:									
Email Address:									
<b>Part I: Private Property CUMULATIVE DAMAGES</b>									
Type Property	# Destroyed	# Major Damage	# Minor Damage	# Affected	Dollar Loss	% Flood Insured	% Property Insured	% Owned	% Secondary
Single Dwelling Houses									
Multi-Family Residences									
Manufactured Residences (Mobile)									
Business/Industry									
Non-Profit Organization Buildings									
Agricultural Facilities									
<b>Part II: Public Property (Includes eligible non-profit Facilities) CUMULATIVE DAMAGES</b>									
Type of Property							Estimated Dollar Loss	% Insured	
Category A (Debris Removal)									
Category B (Emergency Protective Measures)									
Category C (Roads and Bridges)									
Category D (Water Control Facilities)									
Category E (Public Buildings and Equipment)									
Category F (Public Utilities)									
Category G (Parks and Recreation Facilities)									
TOTAL								\$0.00	
Additional Comments:									

# Declaration Framework

- Justification for Public Assistance is strictly based on the estimated dollar amount of damage
- Towns are included with Counties
- Per capita thresholds revised every October

***If it appears that the Public Assistance threshold has been met, the Governor will request a declaration of major disaster***

# PA Declaration Thresholds

## Federal Fiscal Year 2007

Commonwealth of  
**Virginia**

Impact Indicator

**\$ 1.22 per capita**

×

State Population (2000 est.)

**7,078,515**

=

State Threshold

**\$8,635,788**

**County  
Or City**

Impact Indicator

**\$ 3.05 per capita**

×

**County Population**

=

**County Threshold<sup>67</sup>**

# Local Government Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Responsibilities:

- **Know about damaged sites & facilities**
- Plan concise route, supply maps
- **Travel to worst, most expensive damage first; time is limited**
- Be prepared for long days





# **State Government PDA Responsibilities:**

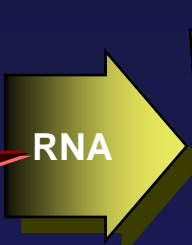
- **Coordinate PDA schedule with local governments**
- **Ensure adequate inspections are performed**
- **Document damage to verify FEMA findings**
- **Serve as applicant advocate**

# Federal PDA Responsibilities

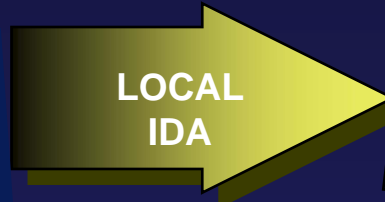
- **Photograph and Document damages**
- **Verify damage eligibility**
- **Ensure all damages and costs to reimburse, repair and replace are recorded**

# Preliminary Damage Assessment Tips

- **Designate a Team Leader dedicated to the PDA: be flexible and have backup team members**
- **As new information is provided, continue to update your damage list prior to the joint PDA**
- **Provide a map of facility locations**
- **Identify a place to meet for the PDA**

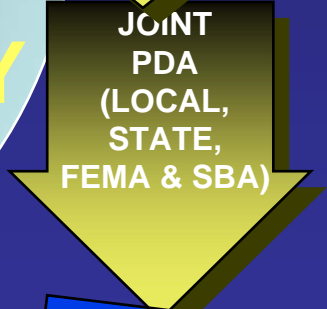


STATE &  
LOCAL  
RESPONSE



VDEM  
EMERGENCY  
OPERATIONS  
CENTER  
REVIEW

Governor's  
EXECUTIVE  
ORDER  
DECLARES A  
STATE OF  
EMERGENCY

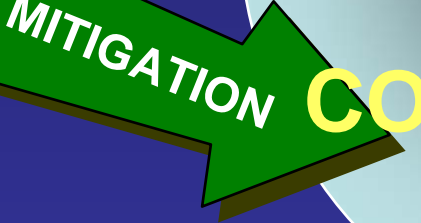
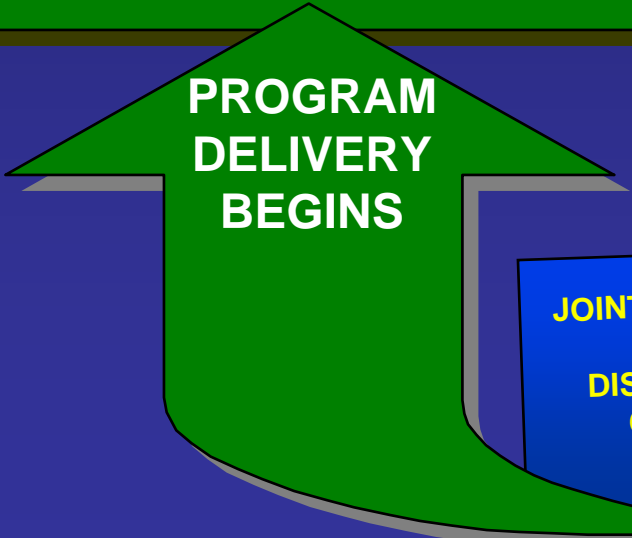


PRESIDENT  
DECLARES  
FEDERAL  
DISASTER



JOINT FIELD OFFICE (JFO)  
AND  
DISASTER RECOVERY  
CENTERS (DRCs)  
ESTABLISHED

VDEM Division  
of Recovery &  
Mitigation



AFFECTED

COMMUNITY





# Questions or Comments?

#CAT



\$CAT

**[www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com)**

# **RECOVERY CENTER**

## **Damage Assessment**

- Forms
- Power Points
- Job Aid

## **Public Assistance**

- Forms
- Publications

**Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities**

**Spotlight**



Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week is May 20-26. Visit our [hurricane](#) section for safety tips and more.

**What's New**

- Read the latest news from Virginia Citizen Corps in the May 2007 issue of [Virginia Citizen Corps Update](#).> [244kb PDF]
- Missing Children's Day is May 25, 2007. [Find out more](#).>
- Presentations and handouts from the 2007 Virginia Emergency Management Conference are now [available for download](#).>
- VDEM is offering a series of Damage Assessment Training Workshops to train personnel on FEMA's standard for conducting assessments. [Find out more and register](#).>
- The I-64 hurricane evacuation route reversal exercise on May 20 was a success. Read more in the [May 23, 2007 EM Update](#).>



[Home](#) | [Jobs](#) | [EM Update](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Web Policy](#) | [Just for Kids](#) | [Links](#) | [Online VEOC Login](#)

**www.VAEmergency.com: Virginia's Emergency Web site**  
© 2007 Virginia Department of Emergency Management  
[WAI Level A Compliant](#)

**Threats & Emergencies**

Choose a threat

**Today's Weather**  
NWS Forecast  
Enter "City, ST" or ZIP

[NWS VA Weather Advisories](#)

**VEOC Status:** [Routine](#)

- [About the VEOC](#)
- [Online VEOC Login](#)
- [Online VEOC Access Utilities](#)

**VA Threat Condition:**  
[Elevated](#)

**National Threat Level:**  


**National Threat Level raised for aviation sector**  
[external link opens in new window]

**Subscribe to VDEM news**

- [EM Update](#)
- [Training News](#)
- [Flash News Releases](#)
- [VDEM RSS Feed](#) 

**VDEM Agency Forms**

**VDEM Strategic Plan**  
[122kb PDF]







# For More Information:

## *Individual Assistance*

**Larry Braja**

**[larry.braja@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:larry.braja@vdem.virginia.gov)**

**804-897-6500**

## *Public Assistance*

**Mark Slauter**

**[mark.slauter@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:mark.slauter@vdem.virginia.gov)**

**804-378-0472**

## *Hazard Mitigation*

**Deborah Mills**

**[deborah.mills@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:deborah.mills@vdem.virginia.gov)**

**804-897-6500**